

## Preschool Storytime Basics



Sponsored by  
Texas State Library and Archives Commission



Presented by Kim Lehman  
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## What does storytime have to do with Harvard?



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## Welcome!

- Freelance educator, storyteller and musician
- 30 years experience working with preschool children
- Past youth specialist for the Austin Public Library
- Past youth consultant for CTLS (Connecting Texas Libraries Statewide)



Kim Lehman

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## Agenda

- **Preparing**
- **Planning**
- **Presenting**
- **Putting It All Together**

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## Benefits of Storytimes

- School readiness
- Social opportunities for children and parents
- Assistance for caregivers
- Community service
- Fun!



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## Toddler Storytime



- Child and parent or caregiver
- Ages 18 months to 3 years
- 20 - 25 minutes long
- Same beginning and same ending song or ritual
- Longer books than lapsit
- Many songs, fingerplays and movement

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## Preschool Storytime

- Ages 3 to 5-year-olds
- 30 minutes long
- Welcome song
- First book
- Fingerplay or song
- Second book
- Fingerplay or song
- Third book (sometimes)
- Good-bye song
- Story extenders



Livingston Public Library

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## Planning for Storytimes

### Books, Fingerplays, and Songs



- **Choosing Books**
  - Age appropriate
  - Size
  - Content
  - Something you like
  - Theme (or not)

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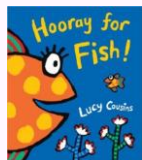
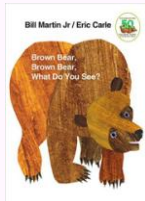
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## Books for Toddlers

*Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*  
by Eric Carle

*Peek a Boo Zoo*  
by Jane Cabrera

*Hooray for Fish!*  
by Lucy Cousins



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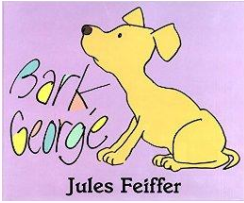
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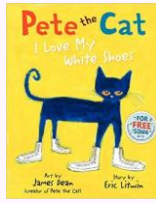
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## Books for Preschool



*Bark George*  
by Jules Feiffer



*Pete the Cat:  
I Love My White Shoes*  
by Eric Litwin

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## Books for Preschool



*Hooray for Hat*  
by Brian Won



*I'm the Biggest Thing in  
the Ocean*  
by Kevin Sherry



*Polar Bear's Underwear*  
by Tupera Tupera

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## Favorite Storytime Books

What are some of your favorite books for storytime?

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## Story Stretchers



Alpine  
Public  
Library

Fingerplays Rhymes  
Songs Movement Games

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## Prepare to Listen

**Here's a Ball**  
A little ball,  
(*hands form a circle*)  
A bigger ball,  
(*hands move apart*)  
A great big ball I see;  
(*arms form a circle around head*)  
Now let's count the balls we've made,  
One, two, three.  
(*repeat all three motions*)

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## Movement and Action

**My Hands are Starting to Wiggle**  
(*Tune: The Bear Went Over the Mountain*)  
Oh, my fingers are starting to wiggle,  
My fingers are starting to wiggle,  
My fingers are starting to wiggle,  
And so is the rest of me!

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## Presenting Storytimes



Lewis and Clark Library, MT

### • Location

- Limit distractions
- Easily visible for children
- Setting

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## Presentation Tips

- Voice
  - Loud
  - Clear
  - Slow
  - Vary inflection
  - Vary volume
  - Character voices



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## Presentation Tips



- Eye contact
- Program Flow
- Longer stories first
- Fingerplays and songs between stories
- Organize materials
- Have fun!

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## Openers

**If You Want to Hear a Story**  
*(Tune: If Your Happy and You Know It)*  
 If you want to hear a story, clap your hands.  
 If you want to hear a story, clap your hands.  
 If you want to hear a story,  
 If you want to hear a story,  
 If you want to hear a story, clap your hands.

If you want to hear a story...  
 ...nod your head  
 ...sit up straight  
 ...look at me  
 ...sit very still



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## Closing Song

**The More We Get Together**  
 The more we get together,  
 together, together,  
 The more we get together,  
 The happier we'll be.  
 For your friends are my friends,  
 And my friends are your friends.  
 The more we get together,  
 The happier we'll be.



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## Extra Stuff

- Props
- Puppets



Duncanville Public Library, TX

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## Extra Stuff

- Storytelling
- Flannelboards
- Sign Language



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## Extra Stuff

- Crafts
- Take homes
  - Hand stamps
  - Bracelets
- Storytime extensions
  - Activities
  - Take home activities



Austin Public Library

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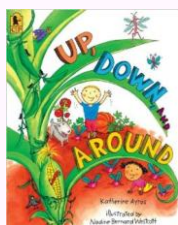
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## Garden Storytime Toddlers Books



*Dig In!*  
by Lindy Jenson-Elliott



*Up, Down and Around* by  
Katherine Ayres

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## Garden Storytime

### Preschool Books



**Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!**  
by Candace Fleming



**Lola Plants a Garden**  
by Anna McQuinn



**TAP THE MAGIC TREE**  
by Christie Matheson

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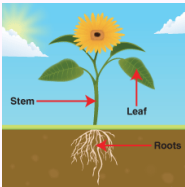


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## Flannel Activities

- Sequencing
- Parts of a plant
- Flower sort

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## Fingerplay



Mary, Mary quite contrary,  
How does your garden grow?  
With silver bells and cockle shells  
And pretty maids all in a row



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## Movement Song

### What Shall We Do In Our Garden?

(tune: Bear Went Over the Mountain)

What shall we do in our garden?

What shall we do in our garden?

What shall we do in our garden?

On such a lovely day.

We'll dig with spades in our garden...on such a lovely day.

We'll plant some seeds in our garden...

We'll water the seeds in our garden...

We'll grow some flowers in our garden...

We'll pick some flowers in our

garden...on such a lovely day



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## Crafts

- Parts of a plant
- Garden in a bag



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## Storytime Challenges

What are some of your storytime challenges?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Space</li> <li>• Getting the word out</li> <li>• Audiences too large</li> <li>• Parents talking</li> <li>• Younger siblings</li> <li>• High energy child</li> <li>• Getting children and/or adults to participate</li> <li>• Parents doing the craft projects for children</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nerves</li> <li>• Time constraints</li> <li>• Not enough planning time</li> <li>• Burn out</li> <li>• Overwhelmed</li> <li>• Difficult to find books</li> <li>• Staff not understanding what you do</li> </ul> |
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# Questions



## Thank You!

**Craft Ideas**  
Calling for craft ideas. Send me a photo and brief description of a favorite preschool craft with you name and library to compile for the craft webinar on January 25.

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